

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Study Session Worksheet

**Presentation Date:** March 20, 2012  
**Length:** 60 minutes

**Approx Start Time:** 2:00PM

**Approx**

**Presentation Title:** The Children's Safety Levy

**Department:** Health, Housing and Human Services

**Presenters:** Cindy Becker, Rodney Cook

**Other Invitees:** Melissa Erlbaum, Martha McLennan

### **WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?**

Acceptance of the "Rescuing Clackamas County's Children from Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Abuse committee's findings; and guidance from the Board on which option below best meets the county's current needs.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In August 2011, the Board passed a resolution recognizing that the abuse of children and women in our community is a dire problem and invested \$500,000 in additional funds to emergency shelter, crisis counseling, medical assessments, and other assistance. The commissioners also directed staff to study the magnitude of unmet need for services with the idea of potentially placing a measure on the ballot to fund more of these crucial services.

After several months of work, Cindy Becker, Clackamas County's Director of Health Housing and Human Services, presented findings to the Board in December of 2011. The research presented identified a significant unmet need so the commissioners referred the findings to the community for input regarding the possibility of presenting a funding measure to voters to build capacity to protect more children and vulnerable adults from sexual assault, domestic violence, and other abuse.

Through its work, the Rescuing Clackamas County's Children from Sexual Assault, domestic Violence, and Abuse committee learned that investing in services to rescue and protect children and their mothers from sexual assault, domestic violence, and other abuse is an extremely important community priority.

- The community believes Clackamas County should invest additional resources in supporting these services.
- This would be a difficult environmental in which to propose a tax increase.
- The community wants elected officials to prioritize the use of existing resources to protect and rescue more of our community's children and mothers who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other abuse.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):**

Passage of the Children's Safety Levy would generate a new critical source of revenue for Child Abuse and Domestic Violence programs in Clackamas County.

**LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:**

Passage of the Children's Safety Levy would support County's policy to develop an efficient response to Child Abuse and Domestic Violence. Levy would likely be placed on November ballot for consideration of the people.

**PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:**

The public safety system in Clackamas County relies on a strong public private partnership to provide a coordinated community response to address child abuse and domestic violence. The Rescuing Clackamas County's Children from Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Abuse committee's findings aligns with the system development work currently being implemented by H3S to address Child Abuse and Domestic Violence.

**OPTIONS:**

1. Go forward with the levy at an amount the BCC determines is appropriate;
2. Postpone a decision until more information can be gathered over the next several months;
3. Do not go forward with the levy and increase county funding for these services;
4. Do not go forward with the levy and continue existing funding (with/without) the special \$500,000 appropriation

**RECOMMENDATION:**

We recommend acceptance of the Rescuing Clackamas County Children from Sexual Assault , domestic violence , and Abuse Committee's findings and postponing a decision as there is still time to get more information.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attached is the document submitted by the Rescuing Clackamas County Children from Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Abuse Committee.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Division Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director/Head Approval     *R. Swift*      
County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Rodney Cook @ 503-650-5677